COUNCIL ON ALBERTA TEACHING STANDARDS

COATS ANNUAL REPORT

1992/1993

Introduction

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) was established in 1985 by Ministerial Order and its mandate was reaffirmed in 1991. COATS provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Education on matters related to teaching, including: teacher certification, teacher education, practice review, teacher excellence and other matters of interest to the Minister. COATS also is involved in the administration of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation and the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

As COATS members represent various provincial education organizations, COATS conducts its activities in ways that are designed to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community. Through broad consultations and through the establishment of panels, committees and task forces, COATS brings the education community together to work toward providing the best possible education for Alberta students.

Membership of the Council

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards is comprised of representatives from the provincial education organizations, including practicing teachers. The Chairperson of COATS is appointed from the membership by the Minister of Education. The Registrar of Alberta Education serves in an ex officio, non-voting capacity as Executive Secretary.

COATS' membership was renewed at the end of this reporting period.

Members: 1992 - 1993	Position - Organization
Mrs. Shirley Valentine*	Trustee, Calgary RCSSD #1 (Alberta School Boards Association)
Dr. Larry Rappel	Executive Secretary
Mr. Barry Paulson	Teacher, County of Wheatland #16 (Alberta Teachers' Association)
Mr. Brian Callaghan	Superintendent, Mount Rundle SD #64 (College of Alberta School Superintendents)
Dr. Jan Boon	Public Representative, Edmonton
Dr. Eric Mokosch	Dean, Faculty of Education University of Lethbridge (Universities Coordinating Council)
Mr. Steve Cymbol	Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Services, Edmonton (Alberta Education)
Mr. Peter Ditchburn	Teacher, Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School (Private School – Okotoks)
Mr. Ken Mick	Teacher, Oyen Public School
Mrs. LaVerne Noble	Teacher, Iron River School (Lakeland School District #5460)
Mrs. Shirley Paton	Teacher, Edmonton
Mr. Paul Renfree	Teacher, Sexsmith Secondary School (County of Grande Prairie)

(*denote's Chairperson)

Support Staff

The Minister of Education provided COATS with profess ional and administrative support through the Teacher Certification and Development Branch of Alberta Education. Legal services were provided by the Legislative Services Branch of Alberta Education and the Attorney General Department.

Teacher Certification and Development Branch

Mr. Gary Johnson	Assistant Director
Mr. Larry La Rouche	Program Development Officer
Ms. Joanne Riediger-Duebel	Coordinator, Excellence in Teaching Awards
Ms. Betty Fox-Hames	Administrative Support

Legal

Mr. Jerry McKenna	Department of Justice
Mrs. Audrey Pean	Alberta Education

Activities

Teacher Education

During this reporting period, the Teacher Education Task Force developed recommendations on selection and admission to the teaching profession, and strategies for facilitating beginning teachers' transition from their initial preparation to their regular teaching assignments. The recommendations were submitted to COATS in July, 1993 at which time they were debated and subsequently forwarded to the Minister of Education.

COATS anticipates supporting the Task Force for, a third year so it can develop alternate models of teacher preparation as a way of encouraging the ongoing enhancement of teacher preparation in Alberta.

Teacher Professional Development

What do Albertans expect of schools? What do they expect of teachers? COATS sought to foster debate about these two important questions before considering how professional development needs could best be met.

COATS discussed the issue of current expectations of schools, jurisdictions and teachers in three domains: student outcomes, the pedagogical and "custodial" domains. Some ideas were compiled into a brief document for discussion by the various education partnership groups. Some educational partnership groups were also looking at this issue during this time. Consequently, COATS decided to temporarily suspend its own activities in this area and to express support for the work being done by other partnership groups on this topic.

Excellence in Teaching Awards Program

Since 1989, the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program has recognized 1090 teachers for their creativity, innovation and effectiveness. Yearly, thousands of Albertans have joined to celebrate teaching excellence in award ceremonies across the province.

This year's nominations were reviewed by a nine member Selection Committee made up of representatives from the provincial education organizations. Three hundred and sixty teachers were chosen to receive the local Excellence in Teaching Awards and, of those, twenty also received the Provincial Award.

The 1992 winners of the Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award were:

Myrna Blaney	Vauxhall School, Vauxhall
Helen Clark	William D. Cuts Community School, St. Albert
Karol Dabbs	Edgemont School, Calgary
Richard Dietrich	Youngstown School, Youngstown
Paul Dvorack	St. Margaret School, Calgary
Louise Heidebrecht	La Glace School, La Glace
Malcolm Horne	Blackie School, Blackie
Markiana Hryschuk	St. Martin School, Edmonton
Linda Hut	Westglen Elementary School, Edmonton
Sandra Marullo	Father Patrick Mercredi High School, Ft. McMurray
Lorraine Reid	Ross Glen School, Medicine Hat
Terry-Ann Robertson	Didsbury High School, Didsbury
Hetty Roessingh	Forest Lawn High School, Calgary
W. Bruce Sawdon	Van Horne High School, Calgary
Sheila Shortt	Ottewell Junior High School, Edmonton
Eric Stockden	Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary
Victoria Tait	Pineridge Community School, Calgary
Brian Utley	Chestermere High School, Chestermere
Marion Watson	Woodbridge Farms School, Sherwood Park
Ronald Wigglesworth	Jasper Place Composite High School, Edmonton

These teachers were honoured at a dinner and ceremony at the Edmonton Hilton on November 7, 1992. The Honourable Jim Dinning, Minister, of Education, presented each recipient with a hand-painted watercolour certificate and a souvenir pin. Over 300 guests attended the celebration.

A new format to the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program was adopted this year. All eligible nominees now receive a Certificate of Nomination. These certificates will give teachers a momento of their nomination by members of their communities. One hundred and twenty-five nominees will be selected as finalists and will receive an engraved trophy recognizing their achievement. From among the finalists, twenty teachers will be selected to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award.

AGT, Nova Corporation and Xerox Canada joined Alberta Education as program sponsors in 1992. Beginning in 1993, additional support for the program will be provided by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal and Syncrude.

Practice Review

The Teacher Certification and Development Branch received thirty-two telephone calls about teachers' teaching practices and the application of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation. Callers who asked or indicated a need for specific information were sent copies of the Regulation and an explanatory monograph.

No formal written complaints about a teacher's teaching were received by the Registrar this year (1992-93).

One case was brought forward from 1991. It had been temporarily aside until the Board of Reference had heard an appeal of the teacher's contract of employment. Following the Board of Reference's denial of the appeal, a preliminary inquiry was conducted under the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation. After reviewing the report of that inquiry, the Registrar decided to stay the practice review process and not proceed to a formal investigation. The teacher and the superintendent of the school jurisdiction where the teacher had been employed were notified of the Registrar's decision. No appeal of the Registrar's decision was registered. Another case was

stayed pending an appeal to the Court of Appeal of a decision reached by the Board of Reference.

(Persons who have a complaint about a teacher's competence and who wish to find out more about the practice review process may contact the Registrar for Alberta Education. The address and phone number are given on the last page of this report.)

Certification Appeal Committee

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards participates as a member of the Certification Appeal Committee (CAC). The CAC hears appeals from persons who have not-been granted certification by the Registrar for Alberta Education.

In 1992-93, thirteen appeals were heard by the Certification Appeal Committee. Four appellants who had been denied certification because of a criminal conviction had their appeals upheld, and one appeal was denied. One teacher who had been denied permanent certification because their superintendent had not given a recommendation was given a Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate, two appellants were given extensions to their Interim certification, and one appeal was deferred to a later date. Two appellants who had not been certificated because of deficiencies in their initial teacher preparation had their appeals denied. One person who held a degree not recognized by the Registrar appealed, and the appeal was upheld. The Committee upheld the Registrar's decision not to issue certification to one teacher who had completed at teacher preparation program judged not to be equivalent to an Alberta program.

Teacher Evaluation Policy Impact Study

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards participated in a study on the impact of the 1985 provincial teacher evaluation policy. Nine school jurisdictions of various, sizes and types in the province agreed to participate. The study included a review of the literature, conducts interviews in selected school jurisdictions, surveying teachers, principals and others to determine their

views on the topic of teacher evaluation, and interviewing selected experts on their views about teacher evaluation.

Highlights of the study may be obtained from the Teacher Certification and Development Branch of Alberta Education, 427-2045. The complete study results are expected to be distributed to interested parties.

Practice Review/Certification Regulation Changes

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards reviewed both the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation and the Certification of Teachers Regulation.

COATS recommended a change to the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation to require that only written information be placed before a Complainant Appeal, Committee. Other recommendations were made to clarify and simplify the language used in the Regulation and to expedite the process. The Minister approved these recommendations.

Another recommendation was that the Certification of Teachers Regulation require the Certification Appeal Committee to provide reasons for its decisions. This was done to ensure adherence to the principles of administrative law and the rules of natural justice. COATS also recommended that the Minister be given the authority to cancel a certificate at the request of the holder of the certificate. These proposed changes were approved by the Minister.

Further information about any of the activities of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards may be obtained by contacting:

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